

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Istook's Efforts Approved in Major House Bill

Washington, D.C. -- A major bill passed by the House today includes several initiatives by Congressman Ernest Istook (R-OK).

The bill includes Istook's amendment to require Internet filtering software to block pornography on all school computers bought with federal. **"We want kids using computers to help them learn,"** Istook said, **"so we'd better protect them from the porn that the Internet tries to push upon them."**

The bill includes Istook's initiative to promote teenage abstinence, to counter decades of federal funding that have instead promoted free condoms and so-called "safe sex." **"Uncle Sam has undercut our family values by telling teens it's OK to have sex outside of marriage. It's time we reinforce what kids are taught at home and at church, and quit undercutting those values,"** Istook said.

The bill also starts correcting how Oklahoma and most other states have not been given a fair opportunity to perform medical research with federal grants. Over half of those grants currently go only to researchers in five states. Thanks to Istook, the bill accelerates a program to promote medical research in the 24 states that have been short-changed the worst. The allocation rises to \$100-million, compared to the \$10-million it was allotted two years ago. Istook plans to continue his effort to bring parity and fairness to medical research funding.

"Quality medical research is being performed in Oklahoma," Istook said, **"thanks to the OU Health Science Center, the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, the Presbyterian Health Foundation, and others. Oklahoma deserves a level playing field, and a fair chance to compete for research grants that help improve our nation's health."**